

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-05 GSA-01

AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9933

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND ETRD JA

SUBJ: JAPANESE STEEL MARKET CONDITIONS

REF: A) STATE 095175

B) TOKYO A-99

SUMMARY: FIRST HALF CY75 DATA AND FORECASTS SHOW
JAPANESE STEEL INDUSTRY OPERATING AT ABOUT 80 - 85
PERCENT OF CRUDE STEEL PRODUCTION CAPACITY WITH
MONTHLY OUTPUT OF FINISHED PRODUCTS DOWN 18
PERCENT FROM 1974 PEAK MONTHLY PRODUCTION FIGURES. JAN. -
MAR. 1975 EXPORTS TO THE U.S. ARE UP 52 PERCENT IN
VOLUME AND 108 PERCENT IN VALUE OVER THE COMPARABLE
1974 PERIOD. END SUMMARY

1. FOLLOWING IS TABULATION OF CURRENTLY AVAILABLE
PRODUCTION STATISTICS AND FORECASTS FROM MITI FOR
JAPANESE STEEL INDUSTRY SUPPLEMENTING THAT SUBMITTED REF. B.
(UNIT: 1,000 MT).

JAN.-DEC. JAN.-MAR. APR.-JUNE

1974 1975 1975

PRODUCTION

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RAW STEEL 117,131 25,773 24,700

FINISHED STEEL PRODUCTS

HOT ROLLED ORDINARY

STEEL MILL PRODUCTS	89,865	19,063	18,500
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HOT ROLLED SPECIAL

STEEL MILL PRODUCTS	9,289	1,996	1,868
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STOCKS, END OF PERIOD

ROLLED ORDINARY STEEL

MILL PRODUCTS, FINISHED

BASIS (PRODUCERS &

DEALERS)	7,374	7,670	7,670
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HOT ROLLED SPECIAL

STEEL MILL PRODUCTS

(PRODUCERS)	499	429	427
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PRODUCERS' SHIPMENTS

ROLLED ORDINARY

STEEL MILL PRODUCTS,

FINISHED BASIS	88,312	18,600	18,500
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DOMESTIC	58,777	12,400	12,400
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EXPORTS	29,335	6,200	6,100
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JAPAN'S CURRENT CRUDE STEEL PRODUCTION CAPACITY

IS ABOUT 120 MILLION MT, AND ACCORDING PRESS REPORTS

MITI HAS FORECAST JFY1975 (BEGAN APR. 1) CRUDE STEEL

PRODUCTION AT 110 MILLION MT. (FY1974 CRUDE STEEL

PRODUCTION WAS 114 MILLION MT). DATA ON FINISHED

PRODUCT CAPACITY UTILIZATION UNAVAILABLE, BUT

COMPARISON MARCH 1975 PRODUCTION TO PEAK MONTHLY

PRODUCTION 1974 SHOWS 18 PERCENT DECREASE IN BOTH

HOT ROLLED ORDINARY AND HOT ROLLED SPECIAL STEEL MILL PRODUCTS.

2. PRODUCTION STAINLESS AND TOOL STEEL (UNIT: 1,000 MT):

STAINLESS TOOL

1974: JAN. - DEC.	1,527.9	245.3
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1975: JAN. - MAR.(3 5.)	237.5	33.6
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APR. - JUNE(PLANNED)	250.4	33.8
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3. REF: B CONTAINS BACKGROUND INFO. AND DOMESTIC

AND EXPORT PRICE TRENDS THROUGH CY1974. FOLLOWING

TABULATION OF JAPAN'S IRON AND STEEL EXPORTS

INCLUDES MILL PRODUCTS, SEMI-FINISHED PRODUCTS,

STEEL INGOTS, PIG IRON, FERROALLOY, CAST IRON PIPES,

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AND SECONDARY PRODUCTS. FIGURES IN PARENTHESES

AND RATES OF INCREASE OVER COMPARABLE PERIODS FOR

PREVIOUS YEAR.

WORLD	U.S.	U.S. SHARE
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(A)	(B)	(A/B)
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VOLUME: (UNIT: 1,000MT)

1974: JAN. - DEC.	33,124	6,510	19.7P
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(PLUS29.6P)	(PLUS23.1P)
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1975: JANUARY	2,146	441	20.6P
	(PLUS20.6P) (PLUS65.2P)		
FEBRUARY	2,558	554	21.7P
	(PLUS29.9P) (PLUS72.3P)		
MARCH	2,853	602	21.1P
	(PLUS10.1P) (PLUS30.6P)'		
JAN.-MAR.	7,558	1,597	21.1P
	(PLUS19.2P) (PLUS52.2P)		
VALUE, F.O.B. JAPAN: (UNIT MILLION\$)			
1974: JAN.-DEC.	11,328	2,590	22.8P
	(PLUS102.1P) (PLUS111.1P)		
1975: JANUARY	866	200	23.1P
	(PLUS91.5P) (PLUS163.2P)		
FEBRUARY	1,034	243	23.5P
	(PLUS83.6P) (PLUS137.9P)		
MARCH	1,068	234	21.9P
	(PLUS43.2P) (PLUS58.7P)		
JAN. - MAR.	2,968	678	22.8P
AVERAGE EXPORT PRICES: (UNIT: \$/MT)			
1974: JAN. - DEC.	343	398	
	(PLUS56.0P) (PLUS71.5P)		
1975: JANUARY	404	453	
FEBRUARY	404	439	
	(PLUS41.3P) (PLUS38.1P)		
MARCH	374	390	
	(PLUS30.0P) (PLUS21.5P)		
JAN. - MAR.	393	424	
	(PLUS41.3P) (PLUS36.6P)		
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